



Children's Services Advisory Board-Virtual Meeting

September 16, 2020

A meeting of the Children's Services Advisory Board of Manatee County, Florida, was held at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34221, Longboat Key Room on Wednesday September 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

This meeting was partially conducted via Zoom Communications Media Technology as allowed under Executive Order 20-69 issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020.

Roll Call

Present: Xtavia Bailey, Sandra Stone, Amy Diss, Gina Messenger, Kimberly Kutch, Connie Shingledecker (virtually), Rita Smith, Debbie Tapp, Gail Wynne, George Van Buren. **Absent/Excused:** Kelly Hunt.

Also Present

County Staff: Ava Ehde, Susan Ford, Kristi Hagen, Lawanda Timmons, James Slusser, Chris Handy-Honeycutt; Members of the Public (in person): Vernon Kearney, Nathan Scott, Hillarie King, Paul Sharff, Char Young, Laurel Lynch, Melissa Washington, Anayshia Newell, Kellie Baity, Nyima Newell (Via Phone) Amy Wick-Mavis, Evelyn Almodovar, Dawn Stanhope, Kim Bailey; there were also 17 unidentified phone attendees.

Call to Order/Welcome

Xtavia Bailey, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Minutes for June 17, 2020, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gail Wynne, **Seconded by** Rita Smith, **Vote:** Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 8, No = 0, Abstain = 0).

Children Legislative Update Q&A

Senate President Bill Galvano was unable to attend the meeting. This will be rescheduled at a later date at the Senator's convenience.

Child Welfare Update Q&A

Nathan Scott, Child Welfare Policy Coordinator, answered questions on some of the changes seen during the COVID-19 including the rate of child removals, foster care home licensing and capacity, and Handle with Care. Connie Shingledecker questioned the number of child deaths, in the report provided prior to the meeting, as being only 1 during the year. Later in the meeting, Kimberly Kutch provided a clarification that the report covered the state fiscal year (July 2019 to June 2020), and only one child death occurred during that timeframe. An additional 3 child deaths occurred in January, February and March of 2019, which were included in the prior year child welfare report. There were 4 child deaths that occurred in calendar year 2019.

Amy Diss entered @ 3:15 pm

FY19/20 Program Updates

- **Healthy Teens - Teen Health** representative, Evelyn Almodovar, reported their teens have met Result 1: Of the 25 Manatee County High School Student Teen Health Educators, they anticipate serving: 23 earned certification as a Teen Health Educator; 23 demonstrated commitment to the program and a positive relationship with program staff; 23 demonstrated professionalism, leadership, and the ability to connect with others while serving as a Teen Health Educator in the community; and 26 avoided risky behaviors and encouraged their peers to do the same. COVID-19 had an effect on the 2nd result, which was not met. Result 2 is. Of the 250 Manatee County youth faced with negative health consequences related to adolescent risk-taking behaviors, they anticipate serving, 225 will acquire age-appropriate awareness and skills to assist them in addressing these behaviors.
- **Replay Outreach - Success4Life Training** representative, Vernon Kearney, reported on the program results: Of the 36 teens who are at high risk for behavioral or juvenile delinquency and successfully complete the Success4Life Training, 12 will commit to continue positive lifestyle behaviors by achieving goals on their Success4Life Plan for at least a year following their participation in the Program. Out of 20 teens served, 18 have completed their goals. Due to COVID-19, 35 teens were not able to attend the program.
- **Palmetto Youth Center - Teen HYPE** - The following teens from the program provided statements of their experiences in the program: Anayshia Newell, Kellie Baity and Nyima Newell. The teens expressed how the program has helped with building personal skills, improved communication skills, how to present themselves in a respectful way when addressing others, to communicate with others professionally, self-improvement; such as confidence in public speaking, improvement in their academics and wished they had started the program sooner because the program has helped with bad attitudes. All 3 teens stated this is a great program. Program Manager, Melissa Washington, stated that 50% of other teens in the program have met their program goals. 10 youth have gained employment, 5 teens have graduated from high school and 1 teen has completed the program and will be attending college. During COVID-19, the program has offered remote services, implemented a hybrid system, and utilized Zoom and conference calls to staying connected with their teens.

Dr. George VanBuren entered @ 3:34 pm

- **Boys & Girls Clubs - The Club – Teens Only**, presented by Dawn Stanhope, the agency has moved their teen program from being an extended night program to daily after school. They believe this has helped to engage more teens and build stronger relationships. The agency has added a graduate and career coach to continue providing support to the teens. Several scholarships were given to teens for their Youth of the Year Program. There has been a 98% on-time graduation rate this year. Over the summer, 5 teens were hired to be junior staff members and received wages. During the process the youth expressed how they learned resilience and patience while working with kids along with their peers. After the experience, the youth were able to work on their resumes and their own self-evaluations. The agency is hosting an E-Learning program during the day for High School teens. Program numbers have dropped to 30% of the youth they normally provide services to due to COVID-19.

- **Pace Center for Girls – Teen Pregnancy Prevention**, *presented by Amy Wick-Mavis*, the agency acquired a virtual platform and continued to use it the entire summer. None of their girls became pregnant during their stay at home order. The biggest challenge they faced with the girls were privacy issues with their families, which did not allow for in-depth counseling and emotional support with their counselor. For the month of July, the girls earned 19 credits by using their cell phones to complete homework. The program has been at 100% capacity. Of the 87 girls in the program, 86 completed their pregnancy prevention plan, 42 have demonstrated a level of trust with their counselor and 4 have moved up to the next level of dignity through their growth and change system. During COVID-19, girls were enrolled into the program virtually.

Staff Updates

Susan Ford updated the board on the CSAB appointments from the Board of County Commissioners meeting on September 16.

- Child Advocates appointed: Xtavia Bailey (3-year term), Jannon Pierce (3-year term), Gail Wynne (2-year term)
- NAACP representative appointed: Rita Smith (3-year term)
- School Board member: Charles (Charlie) Kennedy (3-year term)

Old/New Business

Xtavia Bailey announced the CSAB retreat will be on October 2 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Bradenton Area Convention Center.

Public Comment

Comment provided via Zoom:

- Kim Bailey, Feeding Empty Little Tummys- Ms. Bailey thanked the CSAB. She also stated how COVID-19 has changed day-to-day operation and her appreciation that the community has come together for the greater good of the community.

Next Virtual Meeting

October 14, 2020 – 3:00 pm, Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Ave, W, Bradenton, FL 34205, 1st Floor, BCC Chambers.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Approved

Chair

Date